

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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1. (Currently Amended) A An isolated DNA coding for a ~~protein as defined in the following (A) or (B):~~

(A) a protein which comprises an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 in ~~Sequence Listing; or~~

~~(B) a protein which comprises an amino acid sequence including deletion, substitution, insertion or addition of one or several amino acids in the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 in Sequence Listing, and which has an activity of making a bacterium having the protein L-homoserine-resistant].~~

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An isolated DNA according to claim 1, which is a DNA as defined in the following (a) or (b):

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(a) a DNA which comprises a ~~nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers of nucleotides~~ 557 to 1171 of a ~~nucleotide sequence shown in~~ SEQ ID NO: 1 in ~~Sequence Listing; or~~

~~(b) a DNA which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers of 557 to 1171 of the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 in Sequence Listing under stringent conditions, and which codes for the protein having the activity of making the bacterium having the protein L-homoserine-resistant.~~

3. (Currently Amended) A bacterium belonging to the genus Escherichia, wherein L-homoserine resistance of said bacterium is enhanced by amplifying a copy number of the DNA as defined in claim 1 ~~in a cell of said bacterium.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The bacterium according to claim 3, wherein the DNA as ~~defined in claim 1~~ is carried on a multicopy vector ~~in the cell of said bacterium.~~

B1 5. (Currently Amended) The bacterium according to claim 3, wherein the DNA as defined in claim 1 is carried on a transposon in the cell of said bacterium.

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Claims 6 and 7 (previously cancelled).

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8. (New) A bacterium belonging to the genus Escherichia, wherein L-homoserine resistance of said bacterium is enhanced by amplifying a copy number of the DNA as defined in claim 2.

9. (New) The bacterium according to claim 8, wherein the DNA is carried on a multicopy vector.

10. (New) The bacterium according to claim 8, wherein the DNA is carried on a transposon.

11. (New) A vector comprising the isolated DNA of Claim 1.

B2 12. (New) A vector comprising the isolated DNA of Claim 2.

13. (New) A bacterium comprising the vector of Claim 11.

14. (New) A bacterium comprising the vector of Claim 12.

15. (New) An isolated DNA, which comprises a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under stringent conditions to nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said DNA is not less than 70% homologous to nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein said DNA encodes a protein, which has an activity of making a bacterium having the protein L-homoserine resistant.

16. (New) A bacterium belonging to the genus Escherichia, wherein L-homoserine resistance of said bacterium is enhanced by amplifying a copy number of the DNA as defined in claim 15.

17. (New) The bacterium according to claim 16, wherein the DNA is carried on a multicopy vector.

18. (New) The bacterium according to claim 16, wherein the DNA is carried on a transposon.

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19. (New) A vector comprising the isolated DNA of Claim 15.

20. (New) A bacterium comprising the vector of Claim 19.

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